Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Ranissa Hansen **County:** Pasco

Date of Birth: 2/1/2021 **Date of Death:** 7/20/2024

Report Number: 2024-243267

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Ranissa Hansen	3 years	Deceased Child
[redacted]	4 years	Sibling
[redacted]	5 years	Sibling
[redacted]	8 years	Sibling
Elaine Wallace	28 years	Mother
Derek Hansen, Sr.	34 years	Father
Terry Hansen	59 years	Paternal Grandfather

Circumstances Surrounding Death

An investigation was received on July 20, 2024, concerning the death of 3-year-old Ranissa who was found unresponsive in the vehicle outside of their home. The incident occurred after Ranissa, and her siblings were able to get out of the home undetected and Ranissa was unintentionally locked in the vehicle while the children were playing outside. Ranissa and her siblings resided in the home with their parents and the paternal grandfather.

According to the family, the grandfather picked up breakfast and brought it home for the family around 10:00 a.m. on July 20, 2024. The mother woke around 10:30 a.m. and she was feeling unwell, so she stayed home from work. Then, around 11:00 a.m., the mother went to the local store to pick up cigarettes before returning to the home. The parents reportedly fell asleep in the master bedroom sometime between noon and 1:00 p.m., while the children were all watching television in the same room. When the parents awoke around 4:00 p.m., the mother noticed that the bedroom door was open, and she began searching for the children. She located the oldest three children playing outside, but she could not find Ranissa. Moments later, she found Ranissa laying supine on the passenger floorboard of the vehicle and she was unresponsive. The mother immediately brought Ranissa inside the home and called 911. Then she attempted to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation as instructed by the operator, until first responders arrived on scene. Paramedics later transported Ranissa to the local hospital, where she was pronounced deceased at 4:52 p.m. that same day.

Records note there were concerns for the condition of the family's home. Their living room contained beds for the children, but they were not being used. Those beds were noted to be dirty and/or in disrepair. The master bedroom is shared by the parents and the children, and it was described as cluttered, with dirty clothing, toys, trash, partially eaten food items, and dirty diapers spread about. Both parents and the toddler share one bed, and the siblings share a twin-sized mattress on the floor; the mattresses were all visibly dirty and covered with trash. A roach infestation was observed in the home, and live roaches were observed crawling on the floor, walls, beds, in the master bedroom and throughout the other rooms in the home. The family's bathroom was unclean, with mold seen growing on various items on the countertop. There was very limited food in the home and surfaces in the kitchen and dining room were covered in grease, dirt, grime, and food particles. The kitchen countertops were cluttered and there were old dirty dishes on the stove and in the sink, resulting in roaches, gnats, and flies throughout the area. The inside of the refrigerator and freezer contained a thick layer of old food, roach carcasses, and what appeared to be mold. Additionally, the dining area was observed with broken dishes, trash, and food crumbs spread about. The floors throughout the home were covered in food crumbs, empty wrappers and cans, and used diapers.

A presumptive drug screen was conducted on the parents and their results were positive for marijuana and cocaine. Regarding their results, the parents advised that they used marijuana one day prior to the incident and cocaine two days prior.

Dr. Imperatore with the District 6 (Pinellas and Pasco Counties) Medical Examiner's Office conducted the autopsy on the toddler. The cause of death is listed as hyperthermia and the manner as an accident (entered a parked vehicle).

The Pasco County Sheriff's Office conducted the criminal investigation concerning the toddler's death and in November 2024, the parents were arrested on charges of aggravated manslaughter. Both parents were ultimately sentenced to seven years in prison.

Based on the interviews and evidence gathered during the investigation, Child Protective Investigations in Pasco County closed their investigation with the following findings:

Child	**Identified Maltreatment**	**Findings**	**Caregiver Responsible**
Ranissa Hansen	Death	Verified	Mother/Father
	Inadequate Supervision	Verified	Mother/Father
	Substance Misuse- Illicit Drugs	Verified	Mother/Father
	Environmental Hazards	Verified	Mother/Father
Siblings	Inadequate Supervision	Verified	Mother/Father
	Substance Misuse- Illicit Drugs	Verified	Mother/Father
	Environmental Hazards	Verified	Mother/Father

Other Children in the Family

The Child Protection Team (CPT) examined the siblings and opined overall findings of neglect.

Due to concerns for the parents diminished protective capacities, the siblings were removed and placed into licensed care. In November 2024, a petition was filed in support of the termination of the parent's parental rights. The parents subsequently surrendered their parental rights in January 2025.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The family has significant prior history spanning from 2016 to 2024, to include a pattern of allegations surrounding environmental hazards, substance misuse, physical abuse, inadequate supervision, and concerns for the parent's untreated/unmanaged mental health. The parents have an ongoing pattern of marijuana use evidenced by substance exposed newborn investigations and parental admission. There are 11 investigations in total involving the family, with the most recent verified report being in 2021, where the children were removed from both parents due to the condition of the home, concerns for supervision due to one of the children (then age five) starting a fire in the home and medical neglect of a sibling. The parents later completed their respective case plans, and they were reunified in 2023. Of note, the family was offered various community resources and prevention services throughout prior investigations, but they historically declined services, outside of the ones provided during their judicial case.



Mechell Young-Williams
Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
SunCoast Region

10/30/2025
Date

Robert W. Wilson

Robert Wilson
Operations & Management Consultant Manager
SunCoast Region

10-30-2025
Date